

1975). Thus, sickness developed due to feeding on sub-lethal dose of Vacor lasts for 7-15 days only. This implies that the poisoned bait is liable to be rejected by the rats if, it is provided before the completion of 15 days from the previous poison baiting. Hence the poison baiting for control in *B. bengalensis* should not be repeated before 15th day of previous poison baiting, using RH-787 as a rodenticide. However, more studies of the type as also the field trials need to be done before recommendations.

Present studies also reveal that 30% rats on 2nd and 3rd days of exposure and 10% rats on 4th day of exposure did not feed on poisoned millet.

When a second group of ten individuals of

B. bengalensis was provided with plain sorghum and millet grains mixed with one per cent mustard oil for four days, there was no decline in the consumption of millet. Thus shyness can be ascribed to poison not mustard oil.

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5. ON THE UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF THE COMMON DOLPHIN, *DELPHINUS DELPHIS* LINNAEUS IN LONGLINE CATCHES AT PORT BLAIR, ANDAMANS

The Exploratory Fishing Vessel, *Meenaprayas*, conducting longline tuna fishing off Port Blair, Andamans, had an unusual catch of the Common Dolphin, *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus, on 30-3-1979. The black-skinned

dolphin measuring 202 cm, weighed 68 kgs. The animal was dead when hauled on deck. It was not actually hooked in the mouth, but had fouled in the branch line of the longline gear.

The dolphin was fouled in the tail region and probably lashing at the bait hanging at the end of the line and playing around, the animal must have got entangled in the line. Being an air-breather, it has to come to the surface periodically to breathe and because of the fouling, it could not come to the surface and had drowned.

This kind of behaviour has also been observed in the case of the Thresher or Fox Shark, *Alopias vulpinus* (Bonnaterre), which is almost never hooked in the mouth which is small. This shark has a tail, as long as the body, with which it is believed to lash and frighten schools of fishes and feed on them. Similarly, this shark lashes at the bait and gets hooked in the tail. It is also hooked in the body or gills.

The Common Dolphin, which has world-

wide distribution, is common in the Andaman Sea, often found swimming in large schools. True to the popular belief that it is fisherman's friend, they are invariably found along the bow of fishing vessels while steaming to the fishing grounds. Other Cetaceans and Sirenian are also common in the Andaman Sea. Reports of large whales blowing 'water-spouts' off Nancowry, Little Andaman and Middle Andaman are received frequently. Their identity has however not been established. Two large False Killer Whales, *Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen) were caught in gill nets off Port Blair on 27-7-1976 and 9-6-1977. A Dugong, *Dugong dugon* (Muller) was also caught in gill nets off Port Blair on 8-7-1977. They were invariably dead while hauling for the same reason mentioned earlier.

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6. LITTER SIZE OF SOME CAPTIVE WILD MAMMALS

This note presents some data on litter size of nineteen species of captive wild mammals observed at Nandankanan Biological Park,

Orissa. The details of our observations are given in the Table.

TABLE

Serial No.	Species of mammal	Period of observation	No. of births recorded (Total no. of young born during the period)	Litter size (No. of births)	Average litter size
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	TIGER (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	1.7.1969 to 31.3.1978	8 (19)	1 (1) 2 (3) 3 (4)	2.38